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CHOCOLATES

NEW-LOOK TEAM SEEMS FORMIDABLE FOR TASKS AHEAD

— *From LOU GAUTIER* —

Hong Kong. — After only a few days of travelling and living with the Australian touring party it is already obvious to me that the ASF can start congratulating itself on the choice of every member of the party.

Rarely has a more professional outlook been adopted by any Australian football touring team, let alone a soccer one.

With ASF vice-president Ian Brusasco in charge of administrative duties, Frank Parsons responsible for the players' welfare and Tom Patrick, of Qantas, ensuring that all travel arrangements function smoothly, coaches Rasic and Scheinflug can devote themselves entirely to the technical side of the team.

Zvonimir Rasic has been a revelation: irrespective of the results still to come when Australia tackles bigger fish later, the ASF should grab him and appoint him on a long-range contract.

With a man like this knowledgeable former Yugoslav amongst us, there is no need to chase for a national coach overseas.

Although the new St. George-Budapest coach is too modest to admit it, there is little doubt he was the chief engineer of Australia's two wins in New Caledonia.

The winning margins in Noumea may have seemed threadbare to fans back home, but let me assure them that conditions in the French island were such that both victories were worth their weight in gold and will act as a tremendous morale-booster for the tough matches ahead.

DISCIPLINE

Rasic, and also Les Scheinflug, who is much more than a mere assistant, are demanding the fullest from their players, all of whom have responded so far.

The discipline and team effort have been outstanding and reassuring for the rest of the tour.

The rate of improvement, too, has been encouraging.

In each match the players have put in practice the coaches' instructions and subtle changes for the better have been evident.

Rasic's motto is to defend with 11 men and to attack with nine, and this is what the team is already trying to do.

All, of course, is far from perfect yet, and it may take half a dozen or so more matches for fluency in all departments of the team to materialise, but one can already see some promising signs.

The defence, for instance, has already put tight marking to good use and gaps in the midfield are starting to disappear.

Our strikers still have to learn, however, to fall back and lend a helping hand in defence when they lose the ball, but even in this vital aspect there was some improvement in the second Noumea game when wingers Blues, and especially Vojtek, at times played as extra fullbacks when the New Caledonians were attacking.

PUSH AND RUN

What Rasic wants to eliminate above all else is the static football which has been the big failing of past Australian teams.

"Push and run" instead of "kick and stop" is his aim.

Knowing the man and the respect and genuine admiration the players have already for his methods, I am confident this can soon be achieved.

Rasic told me he already has a clearer picture of what he can expect in the weeks to come and has a fair idea of the strength and limitations of the 19 players at his disposal.

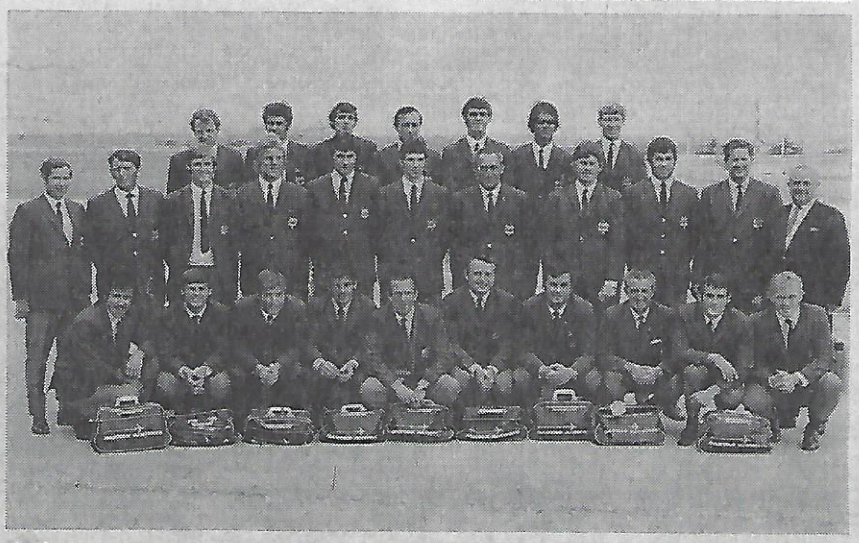
He was very impressed with the new players in the squad, all of whom justified their selections in the matches they have appeared in so far.

One thing this team — like all other Australian touring sides — won't lack will be tremendous fighting spirit and a will to win which may lift mountains.

Somehow, even the meekest, most gentle club players seem to be instilled with almost superhuman fighting qualities when they don the green and gold of Australia, irrespective of their countries of origin.

The tour is only in its infancy, but there are already signs of possible greatness in this side and by the time the tour is over Australia may have chalked up some unexpectedly good results.

I am more than confident this team is reasonably safe from any humiliating defeats anywhere on tour.



Exclusive picture of the Australian party at Mascot before their departure by Qantas on the world trip.

RECORD NUMBER MAY SEEK EXEC. POSITION

First and Second Division clubs have drawn up an initial list of 20 nominations to the NSW Executive — easily a record number of entrants.

However, many "scratchings" are likely . . .

The clubs will hold several joint sessions in an attempt to agree on the candidates they want to elect.

Last week, somewhat surprisingly, a constitutional change went through at a special council meeting, all but forcing Executive members to seek re-election.

It's impossible to draw up a reliable form guide at present, in the midst of plots and counter-plots that are hatched.

However, it appears certain that president Frank Parsons and Tom Grimson will be re-elected, if they stand.

Much more shaky is the position of Andy Burton and Johnny Thomson, both of whom would need a strong vote from the Second Division clubs.

Dr. Gaston Bauer, a busy heart specialist, may not even stand.

Last week's council meeting also endorsed the nomination of Arthur George and Frank Parsons as president and vice-president of the ASF.

The three NSW delegates to the ASF — Parsons, Jim Bayutti and George Warner — have also been confirmed in their positions.

STOP PRESS. — Earlier this week a joint meeting of the clubs staged a "test-poll" among the 20 candidates.

This resulted in Frank Parsons getting the most votes, ahead of Jim Bayutti and Les Bordacs.

The field of nominees was also reduced to seven.

Tommy Grimson was the only other incumbent Executive member to figure on this "unofficial" list.

START TODAY — MORE TO COME

Today's issue of SOCCER WORLD has a full report on Australia's first tour matches in Noumea.

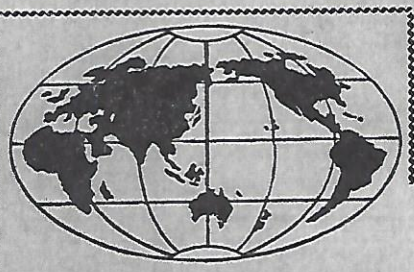
Next week, on November 6, we will bring fresh reports on the matches in Hong Kong, Macao and Iran.

Also next week we start publishing our exclusive season surveys — a four-part story of the 1970 championship.

Special season summaries from Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane are also scheduled for the next few weeks.

So don't miss SOCCER WORLD in the coming weeks.

The local season might have ended — but our issues until the middle of December will be more action-packed than ever!



ROUND THE WORLD

Dermot Ashmore, Dublin's best known soccer writer, mentioned Australia's match against the Irish in Eire on November 27 in the mass-circulation FRANCE FOOTBALL, for which he covers the Irish scene. Ashmore recalled Australia's narrow defeat by Israel in the recent World Cup and told the Paris bi-weekly's 350,000 readers that Australia's first-ever visit to Ireland will create interest.

Another giant stadium

Brazil's fourth largest stadium is now being built, designed to accommodate 120,000 spectators. It will go up in Curitiba which has a population of only 250,000. Curitiba has two teams in the regional championship of Parana: Curitiba, coached by former stopper star Mauro and Atletico Paranaense, coached by the even more famous former full-back star Djalma Santos.

A goal and a half

A "Pele goal" was scored recently by Coventry against Everton. Carr, the taker of a freekick, clutched the ball between his heels, flicking it into the air with a two-legged hop. As he dodged out of the way of the looping ball, Hunt volleyed home from 20 yards as defenders stood scratching their heads in amazement. Both the referee and Everton manager Catterick admitted it was a fair goal. However, some purists argue that to touch the ball with two feet is playing it twice, which is against the rules.

Argentinians in Zagreb

Things are not too rosy in the Yugoslav soccer. Many clubs try to boost interest by signing foreign players; Dinamo Zagreb recently imported four young Argentinians and Vojvodina is hoping to sign players from Rumania and Hungary. At the same time, the most talented Yugoslavs are still sold to foreign clubs for peanuts...

Ajax lose star winger

Ajax Amsterdam, Holland's last survivor in the European Champions' Cup after Feyenoord's sensational first round defeat by Rumania's UT Arad, suffered a crushing blow when their star player, Johannes Cruyff, one of Europe's most brilliant wingers, was hospitalised with a serious groin injury in a training match. Cruyff may be out of action for three months. Without him, Ajax's chances of another brilliant run in Europe's premier club competition (they reached the final in 1969) are practically nil.

Herrera in car accident

Helenio Herrera will be hospitalised for three weeks. Ten days ago the Mercedes Benz the AS Roma coach was driving to Florence slid off the road, throwing HH through the windscreen. Herrera has a broken rib and some spinal inpury. He is recovering in a Milan clinic. Fiora Gandolfi, a passenger in the car, escaped unharmed. Assistant-coach Tessari will lead AS Roma while the "boss" is out of action.

Israel still undecided

Although the Asian Games are only six weeks off, the Israeli FA still hasn't decided whether to send its national team to Bangkok. The Israelis took no chances and entered the team in the tournament long before the deadline for entries three months ago. Should Israel participate, they will be the logical favorites, but only at slightly shorter odds than Iran and Burma, with South Korea and Japan next in line for favoritism. Israel didn't take part in the 1966 Asian Games, which Burma won with a 1-0 victory over Iran in the final.

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● **Zenith Leningrad's former USSR international, Ouanov, 33, scored his 1,000th championship goal last week against Cernomoretz — a first in Soviet soccer. "Sovietski Sport" presented him with a gold medallion especially struck for the occasion.**

● Here's a switch! Some 25 supporters of the First Division Belgian team, Beveran Waas, jumped onto the field two weeks back to forcibly persuade coach Adrian Volekaert to make a change towards the end of a championship match against Waregem.

● **FC Basel, the reigning Swiss champions, look like running away with this year's title as well. Undefeated after 11 rounds, they are breaking all-time Swiss attendance records, attracting an average of 32,000 spectators to each of their home matches at the Sankt Jakob Stadium.**

● Hamburger SV, Uwe Seeler's team, and Werder Brémen, who toured Australia this year, are still equal last in the Bundesliga, on level pegging with Hannover 96, after 12 championship rounds.

● **Hungary and Switzerland will play a friendly international in Basel on November 15.**

● Norway scored an upset 1-0 victory against Hungary in an under-23 international.

● **Italy could only manage a 1-1 draw with Switzerland in Berne. The Italians equalised in the 85th minute.**

● Dynamo Moscow, with Yashin still going strong in goal, will play matches in France, West Germany and Belgium next month when the Soviet championship enters its winter recess.

● Henry Newton's transfer from Nottingham Forest to Everton for £150,000 was the third highest in British soccer history. Only Martin Peters and Alan Clarke brought in more when they changed clubs.

● **Paraguay's best player, national team captain Arsenio Valdez, from the Guarani club of Asuncion, will play in France for Angers.**

● In recent European Cup matches Turkey and West Germany played a 1-1 draw in Cologne, Yugoslavia defeated Luxemburg 2-0 in the Grand Duchy, Poland easily accounted for Albania 3-0 in Warsaw, and Portugal beat Denmark 1-0 in Copenhagen.

● **In the European Cup for under-23 national teams, Holland crushed Yugoslavia 5-2 in Breda.**

● Despite France's mediocre international results in the last 18 months, national coach Georges Boulogne still has the confidence of the French FA, which last week renewed his contract for another 12 months.

● **Dave McLaren, the ex-Dundee goalkeeper, has arrived in Kuala Lumpur to take over as Malaysian national team coach for the next two years. McLaren spent 18 months in Malaysia in the 1950's as a national serviceman.**

● When traditional Prague rivals Slavia and Sparta met a fortnight ago it was their 175th Czechoslovakian championship meeting since 1896. Sparta won 2-0 and have now won 81 of their clashes with Slavia, who chalked up 61 victories over the years. No less than 103 Sparta-Slavia matches were drawn.

● **Dynamo Dresden and Jena are the joint leaders in East Germany after nine rounds. Vorwaerts (East Berlin), the country's most popular club, started poorly and is currently languishing in second last place, only one point away from relegation.**

● The English-based Irish internationals called off their threatened strike and all turned out for Eire against Sweden in Dublin. The match resulted in a 1-1 draw, but the Swedes didn't field any players who are on the books of foreign clubs.

● The Rapid v. Austria Salzburg championship match at Vienna's Huetteldorf Stadium recently ended in an all-out brawl when irate Rapid fans invaded the pitch, attacked the referee, and bashed two of the visiting players.

● **In Norway four clubs are sharing the lead after the 18th round: Hammarkamerat, Stroemsgodset, Brann and Rosenborg, all on 24 points.**

● Since their shock first round European Cup elimination by FC Basel, of Switzerland, Spartak Moscow's support has dwindled. Their home matches, at the huge Lenin Stadium, usually attracted an average of 80,000 spectators, but their last two games barely drew 25,000.

Soccer was just a pretext

The "new-look" Czechoslovakian national team, which could only manage a humiliating 1-1 draw with Finland in Prague recently, was booed before a ball was kicked. The team was greeted on to the field with prolonged jeering, which prompted pressmen to believe that the public was in fact staging a hostile demonstration against the present hard-line Communist regime. Czechoslovakia fielded an almost entirely new team after long-term suspensions imposed on World Cup members who made profitable advertising deals with West German boot manufacturers.

Rangers one up

Glasgow Rangers have whacked Celtic! However, no need for Celtic fans to get alarmed at what would certainly be a surprise result these days. For the Celts have not gone under on the field but only on a matter of membership of their respective social and pools clubs. Rangers membership is now over 464,000 while Celtic lag well behind with a mere 250.000.

Great Britain's "team of the year"

English journalists announced their "Great Britain team of 1970": Banks (England) — Hay (Scotland), England (Wales), Moore (E), Cooper (E) — Bremner (S), Ball (E) — Johnstone (S), Hurst (E), Davies (W), Best (Northern Ireland).

"Partners in crime"?

Rhodesia and South Africa have decided to stage an annual home-and-away series between their national teams. The two countries can only turn to each other for international competition now that Rhodesia, too, has been suspended by FIFA. The first match, in May 1971, will be played at Durban, and the return game in Salisbury, two months later. Two breweries will sponsor the event.

French without tears

The French FA has decided to carry on with partial sponsorship from various business houses and firms, the products of which will appear on the back of all First Division players' shirts in certain championship rounds. The French, however, won't be going all the way with advertising like in Austria where each club has just about been taken over by big business. The French clubs will retain their cherished independence with typical Gallic cunning: the club names will appear in huge letters on the players' chests!

A profitable deal

This is getting it cheaply... Bury, the hard-up Third Division team in England, who have sold more than $550,000 worth of players in the last five years, spend exactly $6 a week on their scouting projects. Three scouts each get $2 a week and five others do it for nothing. Among former Bury players who have fetched large transfer sums and who were discovered by these unselfish scouts are Colin Bell (Manchester City, $95,000), Eddie Colquhoun (West Bromwich, $55,000), Col Waldron (Chelsea, $65,000), Alex Lindsay (Liverpool, $125,000) and Jim Kerr (Blackburn, $110,000). At the current rate of pay, in the same period Bury have paid out $1,700 to their scouts...

Looking after their own

At Turf Moor, ground of the Burnley club that must sell players to live, a new cantilever stand is being brought into use. Seating 4500 — it is claimed to be the first all-heated stand in Europe. Down in its depths an automatic boiler will heat cold air drawn in by suction fans. This air will then travel by a piping system to come out at foot level under the stand seats. Facilities of a simpler nature — but which can still be claimed as "firsts" — are being provided by Huddersfield Town on their return to England's League One. The covered end of "The Terriers'" ground is to be kept exclusively for their own fans. A notice will go up, "Terriers supporters only — others keep out". The nickname "The Cow Shed" will be painted along the back of the enclosure — and youngsters will be invited to inscribe their favorite slogans on the wall.

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Australia's World Tour 1970

Rasic finding pieces for his jigsaw puzzle

— From LOU GAUTIER —

Noumea — Two matches, two wins — that's not a bad start to any soccer tour.

LAST FRIDAY:

NEW CALEDONIA v. AUSTRALIA 1-3(1-1)

Australia's first match of the tour opened disastrously with a shock fifth minute goal by New Caledonian left winger Antoine Poithily which was quickly followed by the first injury of the tour when Adrian Alston, suffering from a pulled ligament, had to be replaced by St. George-Budapest team-mate, Mike Denton.

It was a controversial goal as linesman Roger Bataille had his flag up when the move initiated some 40 yards from the Australian goal, but referee Nakagawa allowed play to continue and in the resulting confusion in the Australian ranks a pass by Blues to Curran was intercepted by Poithily, who skilfully evaded Wilson before slamming a hard shot past 'keeper Jack Reilly.

A minute later dreadful bad luck prevented Australia from equalising when Adrian Alston hit the post with a cannon-like 10-yard drive.

Alston's near-feat probably also put paid to his hopes of appearing in Australia's colors until at least Iran as two opponents fell on him in the process.

Ten minutes later a limping Alston had to be called of the field,

TOP SPIRIT

Undaunted by these setbacks the Australians showed that this team will be no exception from our national sides of recent years and that the famed spirit forged in the 1967 battles of Saigon is still unchanged despite the many new faces.

They came back fighting and after an understandably initial 15 to 20-minute period of shakiness, especially in defence, were in complete control thereafter.

Australia's showing under the circumstances was impressive.

The time between the team's arrival at the hotel and the kick-off was less than three hours!

Johnny Warren and Jim McKay were Australia's first half heroes, the Aussie skipper scoring that all-important equaliser in the 15th minute with a delicate angled shot from near the right corner flag.

Warren was seen at his best, playing the game that suits him to the hilt: bursting through from the midfield, shaking off one tackle after the other, laying on gilt-edged passes and shooting whenever given the slightest opportunity.

McKay, the slender Melbourne Croatia star, was the midfield "lung" of the team, but in a more defensive role than Warren.

If he confirms the form shown in the opening match, he should emerge as one of the stars of the tour and one of the big names of Australian soccer for some years to come.

McKay, however, suffered an injury right on fulltime and appears unlikely to play in the next couple of matches.

TEAM EFFORT

It would, however, be unfair to single out any player unduly as this was a typical Australian team effort at its best.

The proof of this can be found in the manner in which the two second half goals were scored.

The first of these, which gave Australia the 2-1 lead, should have been secured much earlier, such was our territorial, technical and tactical superiority.

It started with Wilson punting the ball upfield 50 yards.

While Denton intelligently hampered the goalie by blocking his view — quite legally, may I add — Ray Richards backheaded the ball into the net.

Ten minutes later, the best move of the match — a dazzling bit of football which even had the Noumeans applauding — brought up Australia's third goal.

A long, accurate hand clearance by goalie Reilly found McKay, who sent the nippy Denton racing down the middle.

Before any of the New Caledonian defenders, all of whom dwarfed the little striker, could lay a hand on him, he laid on a deft pass for Vojtek, whose speed and dribbling brought the crowd to its feet and the New Caledonian goalie bent into his net to retrieve the ball.

This goal was the highlight of the match together with Alston's near-miss before his injury.

In the 80th minute George Blues, who had a good second half after a subdued first period, was replaced by John Doyle, who almost scored within seconds when he carried the ball along the goalline and just narrowly missed dribbling past the goalkeeper.

REILLY GREAT

Apart from Warren and McKay, whom I have already mentioned, goalkeeper Jack Reilly impressed me most.

I understand now why Victorians rate him Australia's best.

He is the true boss of his defence, and has no inhibitions in letting his team-mates know it quite vocally.

The best goalkeeper we've had since Ron Lord I would say if his display in this match was indicative of his usual form.

Col Curran and Ray Richards, whose selections were questioned in certain quarters, came through with flying colors and may be hard to displace.

Both were dominant figures in the second half, as was Billy Vojtek, who fought tigerishly for every ball after a somewhat passive first half.

Peter Wilson may yet turn out to be the sweeper coach Rasic is seeking.

Tentative in the early stages, he was a tower of strength as the match progressed, oozed confidence and his mane of blond hair spread terror among the New Caledonian forwards.

Last, but not least, Dennis Yaager and Manfred Schaefer, with the former perhaps the better of this defensive pair on the day, Schaefer not having taken kindly to the long hours of travelling.

To conclude, a few words on the New Caledoians.

They are still as unpolished as they appeared in NSW last year despite a couple of new better class players with some skill like Ouaremoin, Mendin and Utine, but at home they are definitely a different proposition because they know every inch of the bumpy pitch at the Stade de Magenta.

Australia: Reilly, Curran, Wilson, Schaefer, Yaager, Warren, Richards, McKay, Blues (replaced by Doyle 80 min.), Alston (replaced by Denton 17 min.), Vojtek.

New Caledonia: Clarque, Kecine, Bearune, Mendin, Ouaremoin, Delmas, Tikoure (Hoko), Kopal, Bolo, Utine, Poithily.

Scorers: Warren 15 min., Richards 60 min., Vojtek 70 min. for Australia; Poithily 5 min. for New Caledonia.

Referee: Andre Nakagawa.

Crowd: 2,400.

LAST SUNDAY:

NEW CALEDONIA v. AUSTRALIA 0-1(0-0)

An improved New Caledonian team — and some incomprehensible refereeing by Jean Bataille, the only white New Caledonian on the field with goalkeeper Richard Guerera — made it tough for Australia to come away with a 100 percent record.

Our lone goal had to wait until the 70th minute when John Doyle, who had come on as a substitute for John Perin at halftime, rose high above a goalmouth srimmage to head home a perfectly judged centre by youthful full-back John Roche, who celebrated his first Australian appearance with an excellent display.

KARATE CHOP

Roche earler had been the centre of a controversial incident when hit on the side of the neck by a karate chop by New Caledonian skipper Gerard Delmas.

The referee sent Delmas off, but reversed his decision after New Caledonian coach Guy Elmour rushed on to the pitch to remonstrate with him.

Throughout most of the game Bataille's decisions were puzzling, to say the least, but it would be unfair to blame him completely for Australia's narrow winning margin.

The truth is that the Australians, surprisingly, didn't play as well as on Friday night despite the difficult conditions which had surrounded their opening match of the tour.

The team didn't quite follow the instructions of coach Rasic who, after seeing the rough state of the ground in the first match, told the players in a pre-match conference on Sunday morning to forget about short-passing football.

He told them that dribbling was definitely out and that the ball should not be kept along the ground because of the uneven bounces.

Instead, he firmly instructed the boys to use long, high balls so that the mainly tall players in the party could use their height.

This tactic only worked to our advantage once — when it really mattered, though — as this is how Doyle scored the winning goal.

Incidentally, it is significant to note that of the four goals scored in Noumea only one, Vojtek's last Friday, was scored by a striker.

For all of New Caledonia's improvement, however, Australia were still in control for most of the match and Reilly only had two shots to save, while his counterpart Guerera, a much better goalkeeper than Clarque, who played last Friday night, brought off many fine saves.

NIPPY VOJTEK

Australia had many near misses, especially Billy Vojtek, whom I haven't seen so sharp and keen for some time, who hit the woodwork twice at the conclusion of dazzling runs, which he alone seems to have the secret.

The elusive Croatia-Melbourne winger has played better than APIA's George Blues, the right winger, on the Noumea section of the tour. form winger in 1970.

With sweeper Peter Wilson emerging as Australia's key defender, our defence was seldom in trouble again, even though the locals' approach work was better than on Friday.

In my book, Peter Wilson was Australia's number one, closely followed by Mike Denton, whose capacity for work and lion-hearted foraging for the smallest half-chances gained the admiration of his team-mates, on the field and on the bench alike, as well as John Roche and John Warren, who were hard to separate.

The only jarring note of Sunday's match was Ray Richards' recurring leg injury, which is certain to put him out of action for two weeks.

Richards, Curran, Alston and McKay are the casualities so far on tour — too high a percentage in view of the arduous job ahead.

Australia: Reilly, Roche, Wilson, Schaefer, Yaager, Warren, Richards, Perin (Doyle), Blues, Denton, Vojtek.

New Caledonia: Curera, Kecine, Bearune, Mendin, Ouoremoin (Pothin), Delmas, Tikoure, Kopal, Bolo, Utine, Poithily.

Scorer: Doyle 70 min.

Referee: Jean Bataille.

Crowd: 2,290.

Coach introduces 'incentive' system

— From LOU GAUTIER —

Australian coach Zvonimir Rasic has instituted a novel player's award which will operate throughout the tour.

At the official "post-mortem" the day following each match, he will give points, ranging from three to one, to the three players he thought had played best.

At the end of the tour Rasic's top choice will be presented with a first class prize.

Rasic expects this to act as a big incentive and has no fears it will create friction or some inferiority complexes amongst the players.

His choice for the first match against New Caledonia were, in order: Warren, McKay and Curran, and in the second game Wilson, Denton and Warren.

—o—

The Australians were very touched by the following telegram received at Sydney airport before departure to Noumea last Friday: "Good luck. Bless all," signed by the St. Dominic Junior Soccer Club of Penrith, to which the NSW Federation recently made a donation of four soccer balls.

—o—

New Caledonia's recent international results were mediocre apart from a 4-1 victory over Tahiti six weeks ago. The French Islanders were only able to draw 0-0 with a Port Vila (New Hebrides) XI two weeks ago at home before winning the return match 2-1.

—o—

The stadium where the Aussies played is called the Stade de Magenta, the latter being the new suburb where the ground is situated.

The stadium was built specially for the 1966 South Pacific Games, and although the surface is little better than a cow paddock, the spectator amenities and modern layout of the 12,000 capacity stadium is far ahead of anything Sydney clubs can call their very own.

—o—

Australia's matches were televised and shown the following day.

Although New Caledonia only has a population of 105,000, there are 44,000 TV sets.

The lucky New Caledonian viewers, through the courtesy of the parent French broadcasting body, the ORTF, saw ALL 32 recent World Cup films a few days after they were played . . .

—o—

Australia's matches against New Caledonia were fairly well publicised in the local press, radio and TV, and posters in shop windows advertised the games.

This is, however, the very end of the New Caledonian season and interest in soccer is on the wane.

Under the circumstances, officials of the Ligue Neo-Caledonienne de Football were reasonably satisfied with the attendances.

Although 45 percent of Noumea's population of 68,000 is of European origin, the vast majority of the crowd were Melanesians.

It was a well behaved crowd, which naturally supported the home team vocally, and abused the referee, like crowds everywhere when decisions went against them, but there was no hostility towards the Aussies at any stage of the tour.

—o—

Guy Fouques, president of the New Caledonian League was, as always, the perfect host.

His car was permanently at the disposal of the Press or of officials.

Despite his position of chairman-owner of several large self-service stores throughout the island, he drove everyone around personally.

WE'RE NEARING THE CENTURY

When the Australian team steps onto the Teheran stadium next week it will be Australia's 87th full international.

From then on, every match on the tour, with the exception of the games in England, will be recorded as full internationals.

At the end of the tour, provided Australia has played twice against Mexico on the last leg of their world journey, our international record will stand at 97 full international matches.

Australia's first international match was in 1922, a 1-3 defeat against New Zealand in Wellington.

Although we played the Kiwis only once (in Saigon in 1967) in the past 12 years, they are the team we have met most — 22 times.

Australia met South Africa on 14 occasions, the last time in 1955 in Brisbane.

Australia really and truly entered the international age in earnest in 1965.

When the tour is over we will have played 42 full internationals since 1965.

Whereas Australia's half-century of international appearances took more than 30 years to achieve, the next 50 matches will have been completed in less than seven years.

In the Federation era Australia won 15, drew eight and lost nine of its international matches, scoring 56 goals and conceding 41.

Our full international record reads:

- Played: 86
- Won: 42
- Drew: 14
- Lost: 30
- Goals for: 208
- Goals against: 163

SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

In last Sunday's joint testimonial game for Ian Hillsdon and Pat Hughes, Hakoah beat APIA 4-0.

GUILDFORD Wanderers are now waiting to hear officially whether they will be promoted to Second Division next term. This year they won the First Division amateur championship and have plans for ground improvements for 1971.

* * *

RAPID RIVERSIDE SC held their annual general meeting last Monday.

* * *

The Federation is still examining property in the Glebe area for a LICENSED CLUB and will be approaching the Minister for Lands to obtain his support for a proposed site. The club will have to be known as the Sydney Soccer Club, as the old NSW Soccer Club has not yet indicated that it will transfer the name.

* * *

DON SANDELL, the St. George fullback, has changed his mind about retirement. Further medical tests have shown that with proper rest he will be ready for the 1971 season.

* * *

Annual General Meeting of the GLADESVILLE-HORNSBY FA will be held at the West Epping Community Hall, West Epping Park, on Tuesday, November 3 at 8 p.m. The Association had a record 1970 season, with 379 teams and 5,000 players competing.

* * *

A colleague who has just returned from the UK, and who saw one of the MANCHESTER CITY matches at the Sydney Sports Ground, makes no bones about City's prowess in their UK games compared with their showing here. On the recent UK match he saw, Manchester City will provide the Australian side with more than a handful in every phase of the game, he testifies.

* * *

Frank Wilson has been renominated as secretary of the GLADESVILLE - HORNSBY Association for 1971. Games secretary, Les Hill, who has taken tremendous responsibilities and has been a pillar of the Association, has been nominated for election as a life member. President Geoff Lee, who had a long recovery from an accident suffered earlier in 1970, is unlikely to stand again for his position due to business reasons. Well known referee and club official Max Lawler may be drafted into the presidency.

* * *

JOHN GRANT and the energetic Arncliffe Scots' soccer committee will hold a big celebration at their Arncliffe Club headquarters on Friday night, November 27. Particular honor will be paid to all players who have played 100 or more matches for their club.

* * *

PAN HELLENIC train every Wednesday from 6 p.m. at the outer Wentworth Park. Coach Joe Vlasits welcomes talented youngsters who are interested in being tried out for the 1971 season.

TONY EDWARDS, the Melita Eagles stopper is out of hospital following a cartilage operation. Edwards missed all the second round matches this season because of the injury.

* * *

A. STAFIDOS, 48 Wemyss Street, Marrickville, was the lucky winner of a two-week holiday for two at Heron Island which was the first prize of a guessing competition conducted by the NSW Federation of Soccer Coaches. Second prize was won by F. Bowman, 1 Winbarnerd Street, Brookvale and the third prize went to H. Frisch, c/- Hakoah Soccer Club.

* * *

More than 100 people went to the Coaching Academy at PARKLEA last Sunday to watch the presentation of certificates to recent successful candidates in a preliminary coaching course conducted by the NSW Federation of Soccer Coaches.

* * *

Two top First Division Sydney clubs have shown interest in signing Melita Eagles goalkeeper TERRY EATON, but Eaton has yet to be put on transfer by the club.

* * *

The EASTERN EAGLES Soccer Club will hold its annual presentation day at Bronte Beach next Sunday.

* * *

JOE ZARB, the well known Melita Eagles supporter has been elected the club's first grade team manager for the 1971 season. He replaces Charlie Agius who was manager for the last two years.

* * *

POLONIA-NORTH SIDE had to cancel its planned summer coaching for youngsters because it could not find a suitable ground for these sessions.

* * *

Thousands of youngsters received their cups and pennants at Macarthur Park last Saturday when the GRANVILLE DISTRICT Football Association held its annual presentation day.

READERS' LETTERS

DEBT IS DENIED

On several occasions in the past, you have shown a tendency towards misreporting various facts to the detriment of Pan Hellenic.

True to form in your article on "Coaches Musical Chair" in "Soccer World" you reported that Pan Hellenic is "in debt to Mr. Vlasits to the tune of $2,000."

Once again this is completely incorrect, as there's no money owing to Mr. Vlasits, and we regard your report as a deliberate slur against our club.

May we suggest that in future you check your facts carefully before writing about Pan Hellenic.

We will be happy at all times to furnish you with all true facts.

George Pappas
Pan Hellenic SFC.

● **The facts were checked with Mr. Vlasits before publication and he sadly confirmed Pan Hellenic's $2,000 debt to him.**

— Editor.

JOHN GALAMBOS DEAD

Johnny Galambos is no more. The former brilliant Hungarian-born player died last Saturday, at the age of 33.

With him goes a segment of Sydney soccer history, a great deal of color — and a loyal, true friend for many.

He came to Australia in 1957, after the Hungarian revolution, having become a lonely emigre at the age of 19.

In Sydney he soon became the darling of the Budapest fans; his dash, speed and bravado quickly made him a local hero.

He knew no half-hearted efforts; Galambos was a player's player, the one who never concedes defeat until the last moment.

Even now, knowing his rare determination, he is hoping for a reversal of decision, for a nod that his goal will stand . . .

Until the end of 1962 he was with Budapest, scoring goals at the unbelievable rate of almost one per match.

Later he joined Canterbury, Croatia and Awaba in Newcastle though in 1967 he returned to his first love, Budapest.

In his private life he graduated from draftsman to technical officer with a large engineering firm and was about to add a university degree to his credentials.

He married a few months ago, just as the deadly disease struck him.

Since then he has been largely confined to his hospital bed; even a major surgery failed to restore his health.

Recently his brother Tamas arrived from Hungary to visit him.

Even a few weeks ago he tried to be optimistic and cheerful, though fully knowing the seriousness of his dreadful illness.

"We'll organise some tennis once a week, once I got over this nonsense," he invited me over the phone.

"We could both do with a bit of exercise . . ."

But there's no more tennis, no more soccer and no more Johnny.

The last time he saw his former team, St. George, was against Marconi. He slowly walked into the dressing room a few minutes before the start of the match and all but said goodbye to his friends.

Most were in teams and Johnny could never understand how his team could later play so badly and get beaten . . .

However, in his characteristic spirit, he finished the season, before his rapidly failing health let him down.

For he was that kind of a man . . .

—o—

Johnny (Janos) Galambos died at the Ryde District hospital on October 24, at the age of 33, leaving behind his widow Peggy.

He was cremated last Tuesday at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium.

— Paul Dean

HE WENT HOME JUST TO CHEER

(From "Goal" magazine)

Back in Australia friends of England-born Bob Lyons still can't believe it . . . the laugh is on them.

For Derby County fan Bob vowed that he would return to England permanently once Derby regained their place in the First Division.

Well, he has done just that. After 21 years in Australia he has brought his wife back to England.

And once more he is back on the terraces at the Baseball Ground shouting and cheering.

Bob was a supporter of Derby when he was a schoolboy.

But when they were relegated he decided that he would not watch them again until they were back in the First Division.

He kept his word, but it was made easier for him in 1949, when he decided to emigrate.

"Perhaps it was the weather that did it," he says.

"All I know is that it was a snap decision. My wife and I were chatting one night when we made our minds up to try our luck in Australia.

"There was one snag. Although I had no intention of watching Derby in the Second Division, I did not want to lose touch with them.

"Because of this, I arranged for a supply of local sports papers to be sent to me regularly."

The papers had a double effect. They were read by Bob's Australian pals and they began to support Derby from afar.

"The trouble was," Bob recalls, "that they would never take me seriously when I kept telling them I would go back to England if ever Derby got into the First Division.

"They used to laugh at me and tell me to come down out of the clouds.

"I mean, they knew I was happy in Australia and they just couldn't believe that I would go back to England just to support Derby in the First Division.

"But here I am, a regular at the Baseball Ground once again."

His verdict on Derby? "They are a good side. In fact, they are not far short of being a great side."

He adds: "But I must puzzle the Derby supporters at times. You see, I applaud good football by either team.

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Sunday, November 1: Movie — "Ladie in Cement" commencing 2 p.m. — Cabaret Dancing 7 to 11.30 p.m. JOHNNY ASHCROFT — vocalist.

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First Division clubs revisited

MARCONI ARE ALL SET FOR BRILLIANT FUTURE

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Marconi can look back at a rewarding initial season in First Division and ahead to even bigger, better things to come.

If ever there was a club headed for a bright future, then it must be Marconi whose set-up would make most rival clubs green with envy.

The club capped a meteoric rise from amateur ranks with a brilliant fifth place in the 1970 championship — all in the short space of four years.

Whereas Manly floundered after one season in First Division after an equally spectacular climb from the obscurity of inter-suburban football, Marconi proved in no uncertain manner they are here to stay, and eventually climb to the very top of the Australian soccer tree.

Despite their name, which honors the Italian inventor of the wireless, Marconi are the first true district club in Federation history which have made a success of branching out in Sydney's outer suburbs.

Their luxurious clubhouse and well-appointed home ground are situated in a fast developing area teeming with migrants whose appetite for soccer only has to be whetted to come flocking to Bossley Park.

BARRY TAYLOR

This was already achieved to a certain extent this season when Marconi's home crowds were among the biggest in Sydney.

Fairytale success

But luck of geography, alone, does not explain Marconi's fairytale success story.

Their management spared no effort to secure the best material available to build a team worthy of its potentially huge support.

The appointment of Les Scheinflug as manager-coach two years ago was its shrewdest move, and the club has been repaid tenfold for luring the current Australian assistant-coach away from Prague.

RAY RICHARDS

Under the diligent Scheinflug Marconi have never looked back, and have gone from strength to strength.

Even at the start of the season, when early form is unreliable, Marconi had a competent air about them which made the fans sit up and take notice.

NO FEARS

They were one of the few promoted teams which never entered calculations when relegation was mentioned.

Even when they went through a rough patch towards the end of the first round and were dangerously close to last place, no one seriously believed they would remain in such a precarious situation.

Marconi returned the compliment by unwinding a devastating finish.

They collected more points than any other team, except Hakoah, who also tallied 17 points, in the second half of the competition, and chalked up wins over all their more glamorous opponents.

Marconi played bright, attacking football throughout the season as befitting a team whose forwards, at least in the first half of the season, looked superior to the defenders, some of whom performed with little less than distinction in the opening stanza.

Methodical

There was method in their play, and when all 11 players clicked at once they were quite irresistible as St. George, APIA and Hakoah all found out.

Marconi wouldn't have been out of place in the round-robin play-offs.

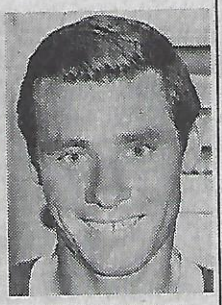
Towards the end of the season they were the form team and would have been quite entitled to at least joint favoritism had they managed to secure that little point which stood between them and South Sydney at the finish of the championship.

A welcome addition to the First Division scene, Marconi have high hopes for next season, quite justifiably so.

Their management, never short of a dollar, can be expected to fork out more hefty transfer fees during the off-season to really hit the high spots in 1971.

Even if there were to be no changes to the team which performed so well in the latter stages of this year's premiership, we could still safely predict a better placing next year.

On the playing side, the year belonged to Les Scheinflug, who showed he has lost none of the resilience, polish and qualities of leadership which made him the heart and soul of Prague for so many years.



GEORGE NUTTALL

Comeback trail

Ray Richards was hot on the comeback trail this season where he found his feet after never really hitting it off convincingly since moving south from Queensland in 1968.

The Australian international midfielder was one of the chief architects of Marconi's success, but others also must be associated with the team's excellent performances.

John Roche capped a great first season in top company with a berth in the Australian touring squad, an honour this exciting young fullback richly deserved.

Playing a modern defender's game, Roche can only go places and his name should be in the forefront for many years to come.

Barry Taylor found a new lease of life in the middle of the Marconi defence where even George Nuttall turned in some more than useful displays once the team started its winning run.

The so-called "discards" Jones, Giacometti and Telfer showed their detractors a thing or to by contributing also to Marconi's splendid debut in First Division, while Victorian newcomers Murray and Connolly settled in well after a shaky start, especially the goalkeeper whose first matches in Sydney bordered on the catastrophic.

The one big disappointment in the Marconi side was Czechoslovakian winger Rudi Danajevits.

Hailed as a sensational match-winner in Second Division, the temperamental, at times indolent, Rudi had an unhappy season, and never justified the reputation which preceded him in First Division and rarely played out a full match.

Big money

Marconi spent big money to secure former Italian professional Alfredo Moschen, but his season was plagued with injuries, and he missed almost half the championship.

In the matches he did appear, however, he proved his class and one just wonders how many places up the ladder Marconi might have jumped had the Italian stopper played out the full season.

We expect Marconi to continue their ascension in 1971, and, soon join APIA, St. George-Budapest and Hakoah as Sydney's soccer giants.

COLD AND CLINICAL

Marconi had a certain bravado about them during the whole season.

No less than six of their matches were won by two goals and one by an even bigger margin.

They collected a mere 7 points in the first round — and then a whacking 17 points in the second round, which gave them equal first ranking with Hakoah.

In seven games they didn't allow the opposition to score against them — only Hakoah's record is better and Ryde's and St. George's equal to that.

They made changes in 20 of their matches, for a total of 27 substitutes.

Two Marconi players were sent off and a total of 20 were fielded, with not one having appeared in all games.

— PAUL DEAN

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Granville's fightback

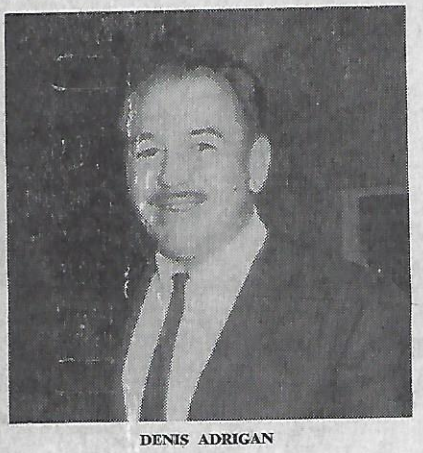
— By CHARLES SPITERI —

After a disastrous season in 1969 which was out of character with its illustrious and long record, Granville-Parramatta, under the guidance of coach Denis Adrigan, improved its standing this season by finishing in seventh place and laying the foundations for higher achievements in the near future.

Pursuing a youth policy which followed an intensive off-season training program, Granville courted disaster in the early part of the season by fielding inexperienced talent that could only manage to collect three points from their first eight matches.

This sent the team crashing down to the bottom of the table and sounded the obvious warning that youth and talent also need experience to function effectively.

Heeding the alarm signal, the management acted swiftly to secure former Irish international Mal O'Neill from neighboring Auburn, Les Schauman from St. George and Klaus Okon (on "loan") from Marconi.



DENIS ADRIGAN

All three were so-called "discards", yet their wealth of experience transformed Granville into a team which in the second half of the competition was one of the hardest to beat.

In addition, Granville had already signed former Manly fullback Gary Brooks, Englishman Martin Loftus, Greg Miranda from Melita, and Clive Lee and Alan Maher from Western Suburbs.

The boost that Schauman and O'Neill gave to the ailing Granville forward-line, which could only score 11 goals in the first eight matches, was reflected in the first two matches in which they played when 10 goals were scored, and Granville were only beaten once in the first seven matches they appeared in.

Big improvement

The improvement was not only marked in the forwards, but was also evident in the defence as the biggest defeat of the season was a respectable 3-5 to Balgownie, while the best victory was a 6-1 against Corinthians.

In defence, goalkeeper Alan Maher gave some excellent performances which enabled Granville to figure in close decisions against much stronger teams such as Wests, Polonia, Balgownie and Bankstown.

Alan Pendleton and John Crelly, the only two players retained from last year's regular team, had a fairly good season and Staunton, Biglands, Conroy and Williams gave good support in a combination which had creditable displays, particularly towards the end of the season.

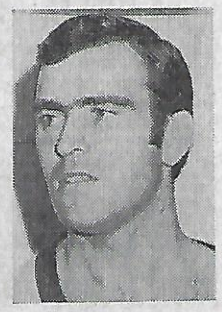
The 21 points collected by Granville throughout the season were hard-earned, but the club probably set a record in the number of penalties that were awarded for them.

Granville were presented with eleven penalties, and in six matches these decided the points in their favor with O'Neill scoring the bulk of them.

Off the field, Granville are forging ahead to put the club on a solid financial footing never enjoyed before in their 85-year-old history.

Clubhouse

The red brick two-storey licensed clubhouse overlooking Macarthur Park is well advanced, and with the official opening set for December, it will be in business long before the new season starts.



MAL O'NEILL

It will be run by Granville Supporters Club Ltd., which has taken over the Granville Soccer Club.

While no miracles are expected in the early stages, hopes are high that once established, the club would be able to assist to the fullest the juniors in the area.

The club is almost certain to retain Denis Adrigan to coach the first grade side next season, and he will be assisted by Harry Shand.

SALE OF PROPERTY CAN ENDOW AASA WITH FUND

The Australian Amateur Soccer Association is looking for a decision on its application for affiliation to the ASF before the Amateur's A.G.M. in Melbourne on November 28.

This move was stated in Sydney by AASA secretary Phil Sleap.

The meeting will be held at Soccer House, St. Kilda.

ASF secretary Brian Le Fevre said that the ASF Amateur Sub-Committee has been examining the amateur constitution and other procedural matters.

"There have been some delays in bringing the amateur affiliation matter to a head," he said.

"With the absence of two executive members abroad with the national team, we would have to postpone our ASF meeting from November to later in January.

"I am trying to progress the amateur matter within the next 10 days, with a view to letting them have a decision for their AGM if it is at all possible."

Obviously if the AASA affiliation is approved, the body will need to have strong, or preferably entire, representation on the ASF amateur committee.

FOUR STATES

The three members who have comprised the ASF Amateur Sub-committee are Dave Dillon (ACT), Brian Emery (NSW) and Max Talbot (Northern NSW).

The present membership of the AASA is NSW, SA, WA and ACT.

Victoria is progressing well towards acceptance of the new organisation, and has an active sub-committee of the VSF at work.

A big breakthrough appears likely in Queensland, as a fully representative amateur meeting was held in Rockhampton last week.

Northern NSW is still on the sidelines, but there seems little doubt from the calibre of men in office in the Northern NSW Amateurs that they will move in the right direction at the right time.

All executives have top class records of service to the code.

President is Steve Stevenson, foundation secretary of Macquarie Association.

Senior VP George Eshman has had many outstanding years of service as secretary and treasurer of the Newcastle Association.

EXPERIENCED

Secretary George Parkhouse (Cessnock) and treasurer Bruce Jagger (Gunnedah) are both experienced and forward-looking officials.

Now the die is cast in Newcastle, Brisbane and Melbourne, so it only remains for Tasmania to follow the lead.

In its first year the AASA failed to stage an under-23 competition, but helped Sutherland and Bankstown to field interstate junior teams on a scale hitherto found impossible to achieve.

There is little doubt that the over-riding issue in the AASA will revolve around competitions of under-23 age, and competitions up to under-15.

The ASF runs the National Youth Championship for under 16s separately.

For the developing States, funds must be found from youngsters and parents for more junior development apart from school teams.

The suburb, town and organisation junior clubs must spread everywhere.

Yet the breakthrough for under-23 amateurs, and at interstate and international level, must also take place.

One source of funds which would endow the amateurs is the defunct NSW Soccer Association Ltd.

Soccer House in George Street Sydney was sold for $79,000, and member clubs who could be traced were paid about $300 each.

Sale is believed to have been arranged by executive members A. Frew and W. Hutchinson (Newcastle) and F. Chidgey (Sydney).

WITH THE AMATEURS

— by KEITH GILMOUR —

The NSW Soccer Association Ltd. is expected to be wound up in 1971.

If the controllers do not do the logical thing and find means to pass the funds on to the NSW Federation for use by their club, at least they should endow the AASA with a large capital sum, which would set them up properly to look after the amateurs and juniors of the nation.

Anyone who cares for the future of the game would applaud such a solution, and ensure that still existing members give the authorities necessary for it to be done without delay.

Football statesmanship and the future of the game demand no less a result.

Rapid tournament

Riverside Rapid held a successful tournament recently for the "Rapid Sydney Cup."

The final result was:

	Points	Score
1. Austria-M.	4	15:3
2. Concordia	1	4:6
3. Rapid	1	3:13

Results of Riverside "Old Boys" Cup:

	Points	Score
1. Rapid	4	20:1
2. Austria-M.	1	4:11
3. Concordia	1	3:15

"The World" now against Australia

— From ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide —

A stay at home "Australian" side is currently in full training to meet the "Rest of the World" at Adelaide Oval on November 7.

The game will serve a dual purpose.

The proceeds will benefit Red Cross and the match will provide a promotional outlet for soccer at a traditional Aussie Rules stronghold.

Top coaches

Former State coach, John Lindquist is in charge of the "Australian" squad and SA coach, Edmund Kreft is guiding the fortunes of the "Rest of the World" team.

Lindquist has chosen his players from those born in Australia or who played primary school soccer after migrating to SA.

These conditions of the special match have given Kreft a numerical advantage as far as SA players are concerned but Lindquist is undaunted.

"Australia" has its share of SA men, notably, Bugsy Nyskohus, Roy Burdett, Wally Fedczyszyn, John Cichinski, Todd Clarke and Nick Nechvoglod.

In addition, former State star Rab Jones has been recalled to lead the team and Loukas Kouzapa, Rick Hamence, Alex Zurawski, Marion Kolecki, Laurie Peterson and Joe Serafini have represented SA.

The "Australian" squad is Cichinski, Hamence, Kouzapa, Zurawski, M. Kolecki (Polonia), Fedczyszyn, B. Nyskohus, Nechvoglod (USC Lion), R. Jones (Birkalla), Burdett (WA Hellas), Peterson (Azzurri), Clarke (Azzurri), Bakurski (Budapest), and Serafini (Juventus).

"Australia" defeated Birkalla 3-1 in an impressive trial game at Camden on Sunday.

Their preparation will resume with a match against Elizabeth City at Ramsay Park on Saturday.

Birch back

Kreft chose his team after the Nilo Rusalen testimonial game last Saturday.

The squad is: Rusalen, Sherriffs, Meneghetti, Norman, White (Juventus); Tsitsos, Kefaloudis, Pantelis, Zervas, Birch (WA Hellas); Mihailovic (Beograd); Green (Victoria); Reynolds (Budapest); Lister (Croatia), Pettit (Polonia), Wetton (Azzurri).

Most significant feature of the selection is the recall of former SA skipper, Billy Birch.

Birch lost his State place for the game against the national team, but his scintillating return to form in the Rusalen testimonial impressed Kreft.

Melbourne should clinch Cup final

Juventus will meet Melbourne in the final of the State League Cup next week, despite defeats in two of three qualifying rounds.

Three of the four teams in the tournament finished level on two points.

But Juventus, with four goals for and five against, qualified because of a slightly better goal average than JUST.

JUST and Croatia had also lost two of the three qualifying games, while Melbourne clinched three wins.

In Sunday's clashes Croatia defeated Juventus 2-1, and Melbourne beat JUST 2-1.

Melbourne looks determined to take the State League cup as a consolation prize after an excellent season.

The Hungarian team tackled vigorously to finish on top of the polished JUST.

The game was even throughout, but JUST's usual inaccuracy in front of goal gave Melbourne the edge.

Juventus and Croatia were well below full-strength.

Apart from the absence of internationals, Reilly and Irvine (Juventus) and Mackay and Vojtek (Croatia), two other key players for each team missed the clash.

They were Juventus' Goodwin and Salisbury and Rau and Symington of Croatia.

STATE LEAGUE CUP:

First round: Juventus v. JUST 2-1. Melbourne v. Croatia 1-0.

Second round: Melbourne v. Juventus 2-1. JUST v. Croatia 1-0.

Third round: Melbourne v. JUST 2-1. Croatia v. Juventus 2-1.

STATE LEAGUE CUP FINAL LADDER

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Melbourne	3	—	—	5	2	6
Juventus	1	—	2	4	5	2
JUST	1	—	2	3	4	2
Croatia	1	—	2	2	3	2

Ex-Player in bridge disaster

One of the victims of the Westgate Bridge disaster was 47-year-old Bill Harburn, a Londoner who joined Hakoah in 1954, played fullback in four Dockerty Cups with the club and represented Victoria.

Bill has for many years been connected with Metro club Sandringham after he had finished with Hakoah and two of his sons have been playing with Sandringham.

He leaves a widow and four children.

Soccer World offers its sincere condolences to his family.

BUSINESS SOCCER

The first ever Commercial Championship will start in Sydney this week.

The draw is:

Friday — 7.30: Atlas Printery v. Australian Sewings; 9 p.m.: Fiat v. La Fiamma-Azzurri.

Sunday — 9.30 a.m.: Alitalia v. ANZ Bank; 11 a.m.: Milano Engineering v. Nixdorf Computers.

All matches at Jones Park, Burnett St., Parramatta.

COOK'S TOUR OF MELBOURNE

The almost endless Melbourne soccer season edges closer to a few weeks of shutdown with the final of the State League Cup scheduled for Olympic Park this Sunday.

Neither players nor fans will regret the finish of a season, seemingly motivated by officials trying to "milk" every cent from the pockets and purses of the public.

The January-November soccer season is partly killing the game by its over indulgence.

—o—

Despite some wishful thinking and some behind the scene manoeuvres, relegation and promotion from the State League and the First Division will be honored as usual. According to the constitution of the VSF, it cannot be otherwise. And the original motion and agreement which was passed as far back as April of this year permitting all 12 State League clubs to take part in the 1971 Ampol Cup instead of only the top eight as formerly will also stand despite a veiled suggestion by one leading club that they might not take part. The VSF won't be kidded by this club's attitude, especially since the relegated side, Slavia, can always be called upon to take their place to make up the dozen contestants.

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According to well informed reports no big names make up the applicants for the vacant post of secretary to the Victorian Soccer Federation following the recent resignation of Len Willmer. But I believe there is one interesting applicant who has had considerable experience and qualifications in two other States — Dave Childs.

—o—

One would have hardly known Australia's national soccer had embarked on their most ambitious overseas tour if left to the Melbourne newspapers. To say that they played the tour down would be an understatement. It was given so scant notice that the majority of readers would not know they had gone. And at a time, too, when the Australian Rules season is finished. Talk about being biased . . .

—o—

Slavia, relegated from the State League for the first time, are the victims of all sorts of rumors including that they will pack up. According to a reliable Slavia report nothing could be further from the truth. Slavia will not only keep on going, but will spare no effort to get back into the State League next season. On a less brighter note Russel Steele, their talented inside forward who joined them from Scottish First Division club Clyde two years ago and Brian Kemplay, also a forward who arrived earlier this year after having played with Grimsby Town, are returning to the UK soon.

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Few clubs, if any, in Australian soccer can boast of a more faithful and more loyal servant than Bill Stewart of Box Hill, back in the State League after a season in the First Division. Bill has been 23 years with the club as a player, trainer, committeeman and team manager, as well as doing other chores — such as marking out the ground every weekend. Bill, who had played with Caledonians some time ago, was also with Prahran, Brighton and Moreland. He is likely to cut down on his activities after this year, for he is 65 in January 1971.

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